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MISCELLANY

I

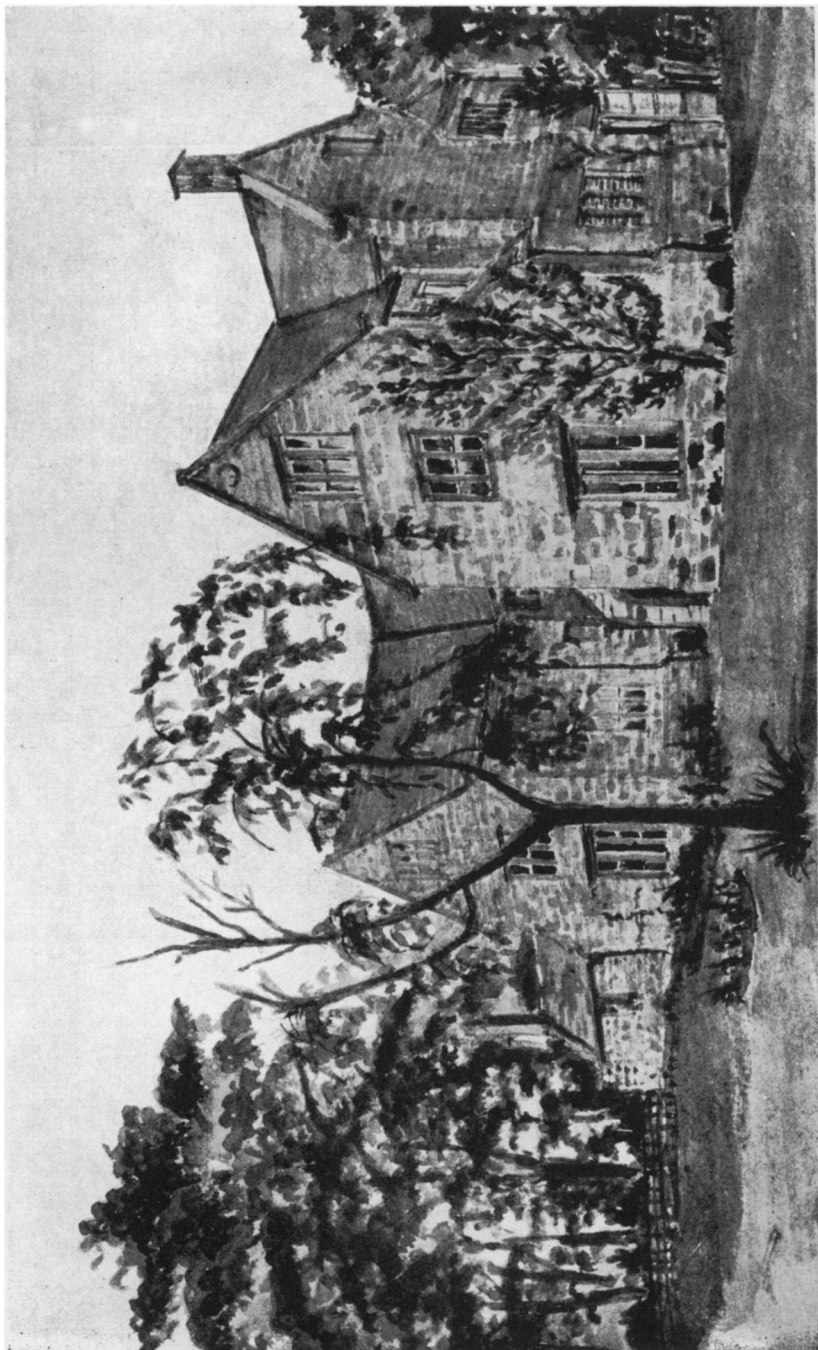
BALTIMORE HOUSE NEAR TISBURY, WILTSHIRE, ENGLAND

The home of Cecilius Calvert, second Baron Baltimore, and first Proprietary Governor of Maryland Colony, is still standing. It was presumably from its doors that Leonard and George Calvert started on the memorable expedition of 1633, by which the colony was founded. It was hence that Lord Baltimore issued those strict ordinances for the regulation of the Colony.

In 1628 Cecilius married Anne, one of the daughters of Thomas Arundell, first Baron Arundell of Wardour. With her he received the mansion house which is our present subject, together with Hook Farm which is adjacent to it, as well as other property: but the terms and title by which he held them I do not know. In later years the mansion was called "the Dower-house" of the Arundells, whose old castle of Wardour was then still standing intact, a mile or so distant, on the opposite side of the valley formed by the little river Noddre or Nadder.

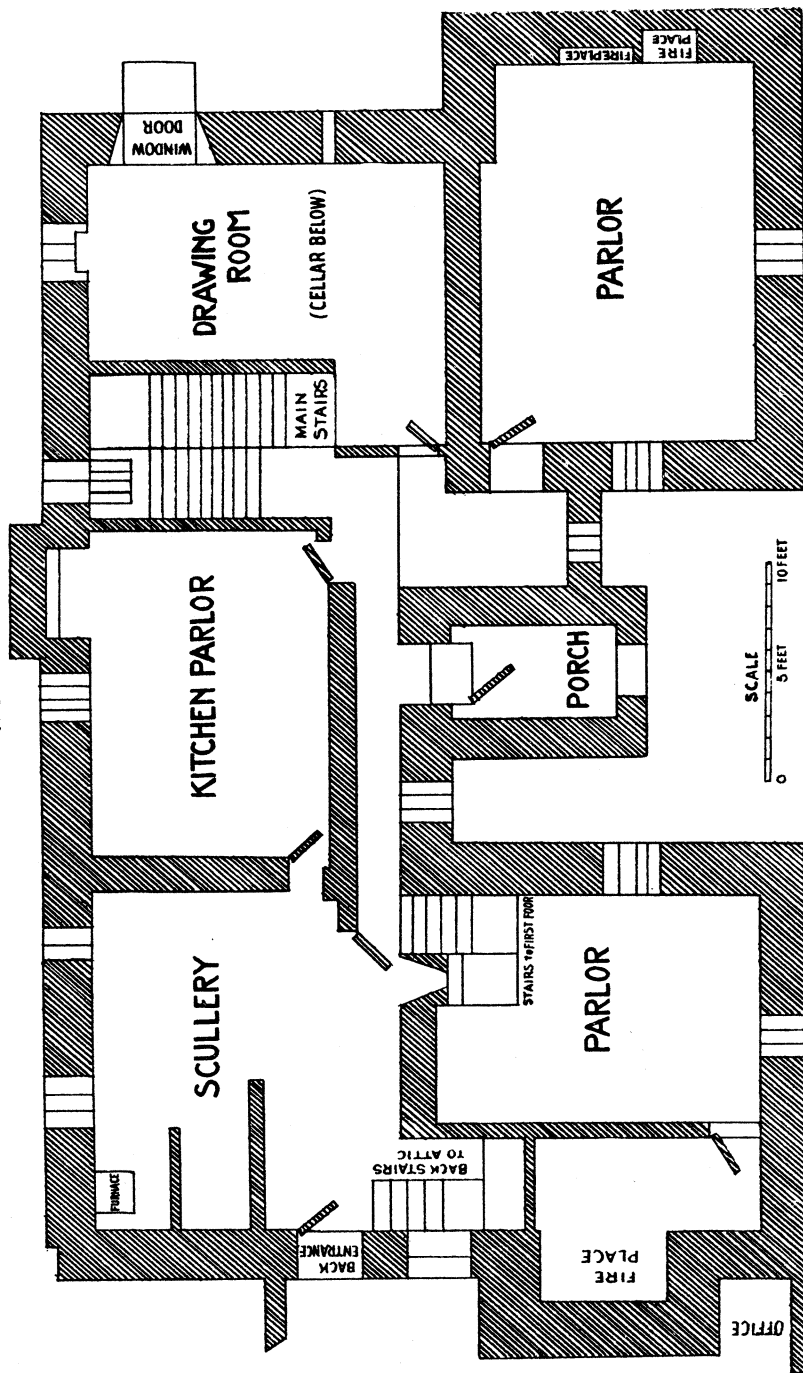
Cecilius succeeded to the barony of Wardour on the death of his father George, April 15, 1632. So the name Baltimore House must have come in after that, and probably at once. Leonard and George departed the next year, while Cecilius continued to reside here during the important negotiations of the ensuing years. But with the Civil Wars there came a change. Wardour and its neighborhood became the scene of severe fighting. In 1643 the gallant Lady Blanche defended the medieval castle bravely, in spite of its being untenable for long against mining and artillery. The Castle fell, but the Round-heads were in time ousted again by the third Lord Arundell, who was, in turn, constrained to yield to the victorious Parliamentarians. What became of Baltimore House during all this hard fighting, I do not know. Lord Baltimore is mentioned casually as having been in the Parliamentary camp, perhaps as an intermediary, then with the king. When, under Cromwell's stern rule, order of some sort was being restored, we find a whole series of proceedings regarding the mansion and estate. Documents belonging to these proceedings are extant at the Record Office in London, and an inventory of them is published in the *Calendars of the Committee for Compounding*.¹

¹ *The Calendars of the Committee for the Advance of Money, (Cases)* contain several references to Lord Baltimore, esp. p. 514. They begin in 1644. In 1649, all his property in London, Middlesex, Wilts, Hants, Dorset and York was ordered to be seized. Details of further proceedings are given in the *Calendars of the Committee for Compounding: Section Cases*, pp. 3269 to 3271. Notes are given of some 45 records. The records themselves are extant in MS. at the Record Office.



BALTIMORE HOUSE, TISBURY, ENGLAND

NORTH



SOUTH
FLOOR PLAN OF BALTIMORE HOUSE

We here find that both Lord Arundell and Lord Baltimore had had their estates forfeited for delinquency and recusancy, but both had to some extent compounded, and each had put a tenant into Hook Farm and the accompanying "Mansion." Lord Baltimore's tenant was one Weeks: Lord Arundell's was Blandford. Eventually, after six years of pleading (May 3, 1650, to May 8, 1655), Blandford was confirmed, though Lord Baltimore had urged "that he had been at great expenses, repairing the mansion house and re-stocking the farm."²

After the seizure of his property in 1649 or 1650, Lord Baltimore appears to have left the house and district. The death of his wife, Anne Arundell, who was buried at Tisbury in 1649,³ may have had a good deal to say to this, as the property presumably came with her. The Baltimores seem to have lived near London after this,⁴ and most of them are buried there. Charles, the third lord, was deprived of Maryland, on account of his Catholic faith, at the Revolution in 1689; but Benedict, the fourth lord, having turned Protestant in 1713, was at once confirmed again in the grant. The family died out in 1771.

After the Restoration (1660), we may assume that the Hook Farm property and house returned to the Arundells, and that they again used it as their "Dower-house." I do not find mention of it in any lists, such as those of the *Estates of Catholics in 1718*, but I believe that towards the end of the eighteenth century it became the residence of the estate agent of Lord Arundell, who was at that time a very large landowner. In the nineteenth century the mansion became permanently the farmhouse and even its manorial name is generally forgotten. The wife of the present holder, Mr. Field, told me that three generations of her progenitors had lived under its roof, while two generations of descendants are now residing there with her.

Before we turn to the house itself, a reference to the still remoter past may be interjected.

The house lies in the parish of Semley, which was given by King Edwy in 955 to the Abbess of Wilton. A later abbess surrendered it to Henry VIII, March 25, 1539. In Hoare's *Modern Wiltshire*, IV, ii, 24, various royal accounts of the property are quoted, and in these Hook Farm is mentioned separately for the first time in 1580. There may

² If one takes these law-deeds precisely, it would seem that there was a good deal of quarrelling between the Calverts and the Arundells. But the real significance of the legal proceedings may, after all, have been quite different.

³ The inscription on her grave is in HOARE, IV, i, p. 146.

⁴ On 14 December, 1669, the papal agent Agretti wrote from London, "I went to see the Baron of Baltimore in a country house of his near London, and we talked together with Father (Philip) Howard." Cf. T. HUGHES, S.J., *The Society of Jesus in North America*, Documents, I, p. 197.

be some connection between this and the building of the present house.

And now for a brief survey of the building, the question which we have to keep before us being this—does the structure remain substantially as the Calverts left it?

The main features of the house, the simple yet graceful outline, the moderate height, the very thick walls, the mullion windows, the sloping chimneys, at once suggest an early date, Elizabethan rather than Jacobean. In the attics there is a low-pointed doorway, not much later, I fancy, than 1550, and this I take to be somewhere about the date of the original structure. The limits of that first building are clearly marked by a thickening of about four inches in the outside wall, carried up from the foundation to two feet above the ground. This stone dado skirts all round the house, running inside the porch, and the sheds now adjacent on the west, which are thereby proved to be additions. Moreover from this indication alone, one might safely infer that the house, as a whole, does substantially remain in its original state. The roof is the only modern thing that meets the eye. It is of red tiles, put on four years ago. Before that the house had been slated, but originally it had been roofed with slabs of stone. The great thickness of the walls (about two feet nine inches at their base) shows that they were built to carry a very heavy weight. There are signs of several interior alterations, the chief of which I take to have been the work of Cecilius Lord Baltimore himself. The object in view was evidently to modify the primitive simplicity of the original house. In country houses of the Tudor period, people lived, worked, and slept together in large rooms or galleries to an extent which a later generation found very inconvenient. Originally, when you entered by the front door, you were in the hall itself; or if you came in by the back door, you were at once in the kitchen. Upstairs you passed through one bedroom to the other. No porches, no passages, no ante-chambers. This has been very cleverly altered with the minimum of structural change. By cutting through a corner here and altering a door there, with the addition of a few partition-walls, one can now come in and pass up to the furthest sleeping room or attic, without trespassing on the privacy of anyone. More interesting still, from the architect's point of view, is the insertion of fire-places and chimneys in the back rooms.⁵ In primitive houses the rooms of servants, etc., were often fireless. We now find that two strong and heavy chimneys have been inserted. One

⁵ My survey was not sufficiently prolonged to ascertain why the back rooms were originally fireless. Perhaps these back rooms were at first the rear parts of what are now front rooms; in which case they might have been heated (however imperfectly) by the front-room fires.

of these, near the northeast corner, is very ingeniously constructed, from the inside. It is founded in the cellar, and runs up, following a line of windows now filled in with thin, early bricks. The second chimney, as the masonry shows, has been added from the outside. On the ground floor, the old hall fire-place has been pushed backwards into it. The mouldings of the ancient jambs are still discernible behind the modern kitchen-range, and they are identical with the mouldings on the front doorway. This proves that they are original, though now pushed out into the later chimney. To think that these alterations were the work of Lord Baltimore himself seems to me not unreasonable. The old brick used may well have been of his period, and a stronger argument might have been made out of his own claim to have made "great expenses" in his repairs. For, we cannot discern any other alterations save these, which could have called for great expenses.

The most modern alteration is the insertion of long French windows on the east side, which open into the lawn. This is probably eighteenth-century work. The porch is interesting. It has been built over the front door, and covers some of its mouldings, and also the stone dado, and it is, therefore, clearly later than the rest. It bears the only inscription on the house, but one that baffles us for the moment. On the outside is incised a heart, within which the date 1655 over the letters I. B. When we remember that it was exactly in this year, 1655, that this house was confirmed to Mr. Blandford after so many pleadings, we might feel confident that his name must be signified by the initial B. But then Blandford's Christian name was Stephen. Why, then, the I. in the inscription, and why the heart? I have no information wherewith to answer these questions,⁶ and so for the time must give up the precise interpretation of the signs. But a vaguer general significance remains. It conveys to us that in 1655, after so many years of public and private trouble, this porch was built to commemorate the entrance into loving domestic life of I. B., whoever he or they may be. The date shows that we have already passed the Baltimore period.

These few structural points, taken in connection with the historical evidence already cited, strongly confirm the tradition that this house is in truth the very mansion inhabited by Lord Baltimore at the time of the colonization of Maryland. There are indeed alterations, but they rather enhance the evidence for the tradition. They do this partly because they improve away the deficiencies usual in still earlier

⁶ The heart cannot be of heraldic significance, especially as it has date and initials within it. The Blandford family are not mentioned in *Marshal's Guide*. They were probably local farmers, not armigerous.

buildings; partly because they were presumably initiated, if not executed, by Lord Baltimore himself.

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II

THE BENAVIDES MEMORIALS

The American historical world gave a hearty welcome to Mrs. Ayer's translation of the *Memorial of Fray Alonso de Benavides* (1630), not only because it is one of the scarcest of all *Americana*, but especially because this particular volume had gone through the skilled hands of Charles Fletcher Lummis and Frederick Webb Hodge. The elaborate notes by these two scholars are really a book in themselves and are rich in information and guidance for the student. The only regret was that the edition was private and limited to three hundred copies. Through the courtesy of Mr. Hodge, a copy was sent to the CATHOLIC HISTORICAL REVIEW, and a review of the volume appeared in the July, 1916, issue. Those interested in the subject for which the *Memorial* is an indispensable source: namely, the Church in the Southwest, will appreciate the value of a second *Memorial*, dated four years later (February 12, 1634), from the Propaganda Archives, which exists in photostatic copy among Dr. Guilday's *American Church History Manuscripts*, at the Catholic University, Washington, D. C. Along with the *Propaganda Memorial* are other collateral documents which treat of the same object. The relationship of the two *Memorials* is not exactly definable. Probably the *Propaganda Memorial* is a revision of the *Ayer Memorial*; but, if so, the former does not supersede the latter. It supplements in a certain measure the printed book by the addition of some valuable biographical and ethnological data. The printed *Memorial* remains an historical source of the first order, but scholars who wish to use it should know of the supplementary redaction. One of Dr. Guilday's students—the Rev. Virgil G. Michel, O.S.B.—is preparing the 1634 *Memorial* for publication. The following description will aid the reader to judge the comparative value of these manuscripts:

1. The *Ayer Memorial*.—This is a printed copy, very probably abridged and mutilated by the Spanish publisher or by someone else, of a Report on New Mexico, presented by Father Benavides, Guardian of the Franciscan missions there, to Philip IV of Spain, on the occasion of his visit to the mother country in 1630. It has not the systematic treatment of the later *Memorial*. It omits the names of the missionaries as a rule, and contains only incidental references to their work. It is more of a physical geography than a history, and was written to encourage the king to assist the missionaries to develop the country. It contains considerable information about the natural resources of the